

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS



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IN HIS PRESENCE ON HIS TERMS

Dr. Vanessa Dantzer Ussery | February 8, 2017

1 Chronicles 13:1-14 tells of how David was so excited to access the Ark of the Covenant and rejoiced with praise and worship with the people of God as they prepared to return it to Jerusalem. It always strikes a nerve in me when I read how Uzzah died because he touched the Ark to prevent it from falling off the cart while in transit. The Lord shared this thought with me: We often think our praise and worship is all that's required to be in the presence of the Lord and be blessed. The Ark of the Covenant was symbolic of His presence. And all the praise and worship that transpired did not prevent Uzzah's death when he touched the Ark. First of all, the method of transporting the Ark was incorrect therefore it jeopardized the Ark's positioning on the cart. Had they carried it using staves in the rings, as God intended, the Ark would have been stable. This caused me to realize praise and worship without adhering to the word of God can be a disaster in the making. Not knowing what pleases God is not an acceptable excuse. David had to refer to the law to know what God expected. Once he did it right, the results were they had His Presence in Jerusalem and blessings in abundance.



Second, we are never in a position to help God. God is available to help us, not the other way around. Touching the ark to prevent it from falling off the cart would be inappropriate. God's self-sufficient and His Presence is to be experienced by man. God's never needs assistance or support. Certainly with His power the Ark could remain on the cart if God desired. When man helps God it devalues His authority, superiority and Deity. The Lord showed me that is what we do when we fail to allow Him to lead and direct us. We can worship and praise Him all day and when life shakes us, though filled with His Presence in us, we think it's necessary for us to assist God as opposed to trust Him. It's synonymous to preventing the Ark from falling off the cart. Perhaps had Uzzah realized the Ark of the Covenant truly represented the Presence of God, he would not have touched it but allowed God to handle the situation. We do not need to touch our lives but be touched by Him.

When filled with the Holy Ghost we remain in His Presence. If our circumstances give the appearance we are slipping off the cart of life, don't you touch it. His presence merits that we praise and worship Him so operate on His terms to be blessed. Do what He says, don't touch it and believe in the power and authority of Who He is!

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